

### REMARKS

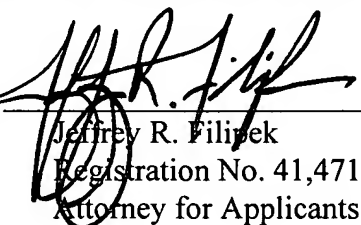
Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, various editorial amendments have been made to the specification in order to incorporate amendments made in the parent application. No new matter has been added.

Also, claims 1-3 have been canceled and new claims 4-6 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshiichiro KASHIWAGI et al.

By   
Jeffrey R. Filipek  
Registration No. 41,471  
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
March 16, 2004